

Exotic Larch at the Caroline A. Fox Research & Demonstration Forest, Hillsborough NH

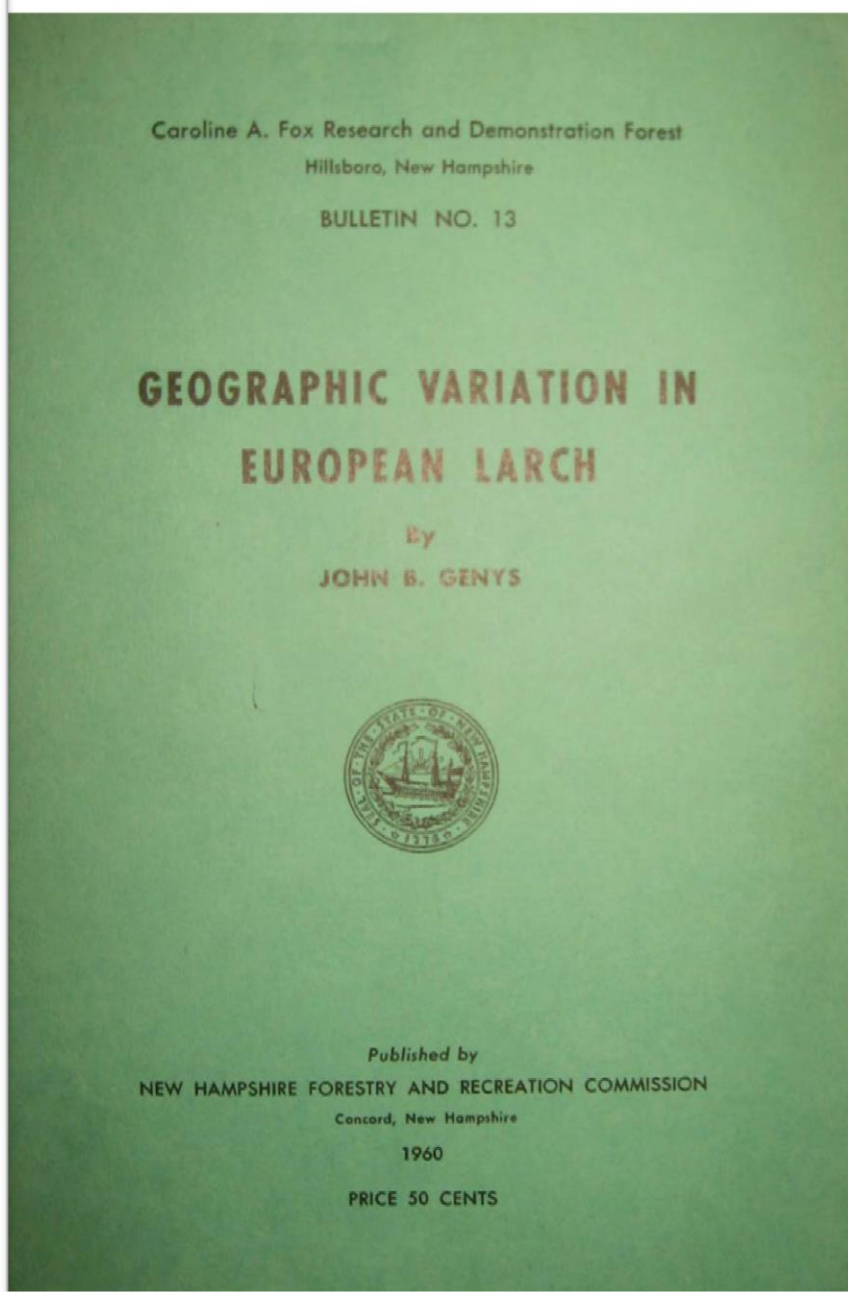


Ingeborg V. Seaboyer¹ and Bruce P. Allen¹

¹Caroline A. Fox Research and Demonstration Forest, NH Division of Forests and Lands, P.O. Box 1175, Hillsboro, NH 03244,



Interest in growing exotic larch isn't new - as early as the mid 19th century European Larch (*Larix decidua*) was brought to the US, with some early plantings in NH at the Dartmouth College Park. Early reports of the NH Forestry Commission recommended planting larch - one of the first species produced at NH's State Forest Nursery in 1911 with stock available into the early 1930's and 12,000 seedlings distributed. However, Henry Baldwin (New Hampshire's first research forester) reported that no records of the seed source existed for these early trees.



In 2007 Dr. Genys re-visited the Fox IUFRO plantation he measured in 1958 as part of his doctoral project.



Starting in 1934 Dr. Baldwin began to receive larch seed samples -primarily European, but some Japanese (*Larix leptolepis*) - from various locations (including Scotland and Italy) which he grew in a nursery at the Fox Research & Demonstration Forest (Fox) in Hillsborough NH. In 1936 the first seedlings were set out in experimental provenance plots at Fox Research Forest and at Vincent State Forest.



Measurements of the Fox larch has been ongoing; but by 1985 original wooden plot corners had deteriorated. Corners were relocated and replaced at five locations, including IUFRO plantation. Measurements were most recently done in 2011.

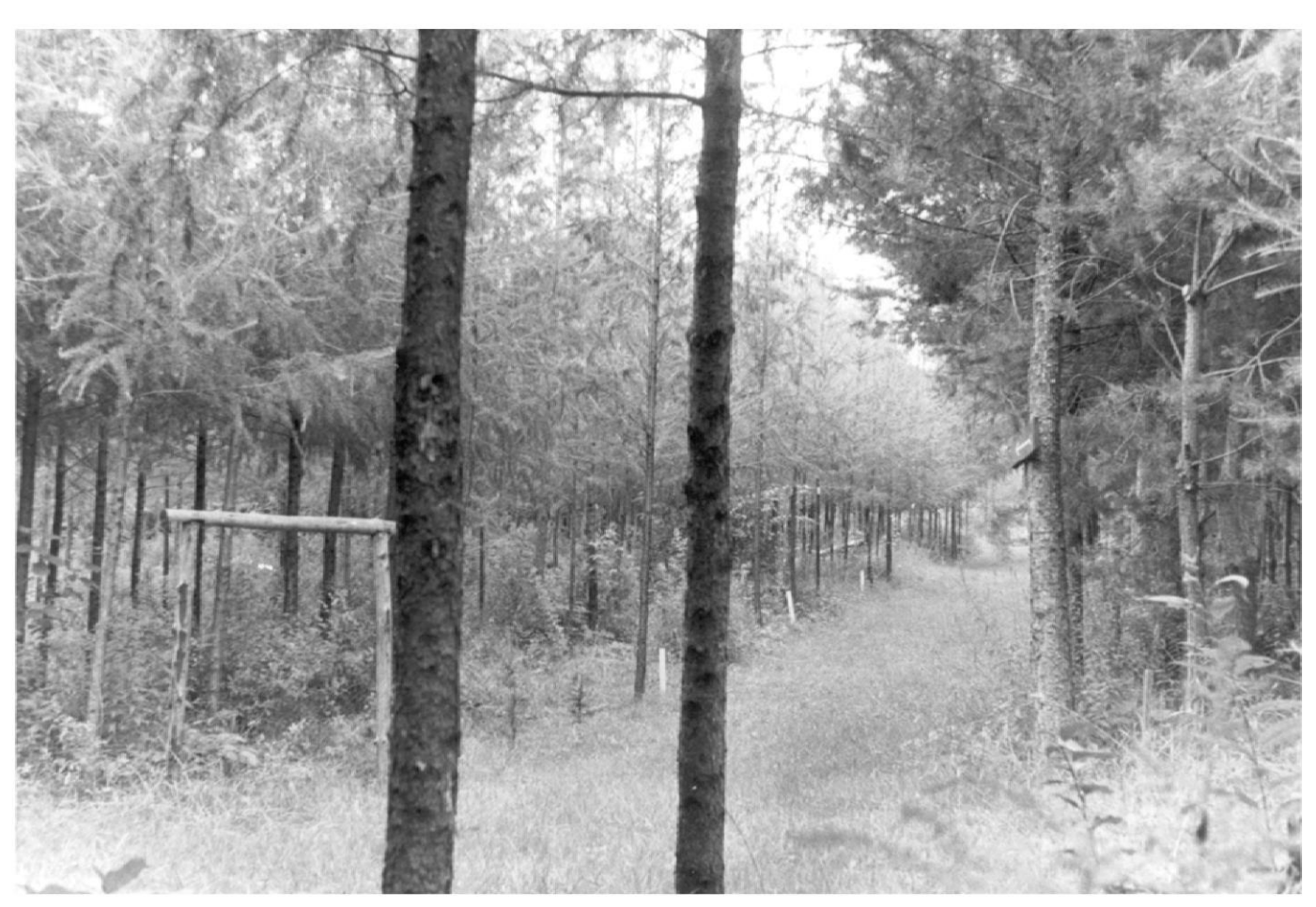


Oriental bittersweet has been an issue in some plantations. Control efforts (both mechanical and using herbicide) began in 2011.

Scions have been collected from Japanese larch in this 1958 plantation for seed orchards and arboretums around the U.S. (Desmarais 1986).



From 1938 to 1940 additional European, Japanese, Dahurian (*Larix gmelinii*) and Siberian larch (*Larix sibirica*, and *Larix polonica sudetica*) (from Czechislovakia, Germany, Austria, the French Alps and Finland) were planted at Fox.



In 1946 Fox received seeds from the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) from low, mid and high elevation sources in the Austrian Alps, Italian Alps and Switzerland. With the IUFRO provenance test Dr. Baldwin indicated Fox held representation from all the areas where larch naturally occurs.

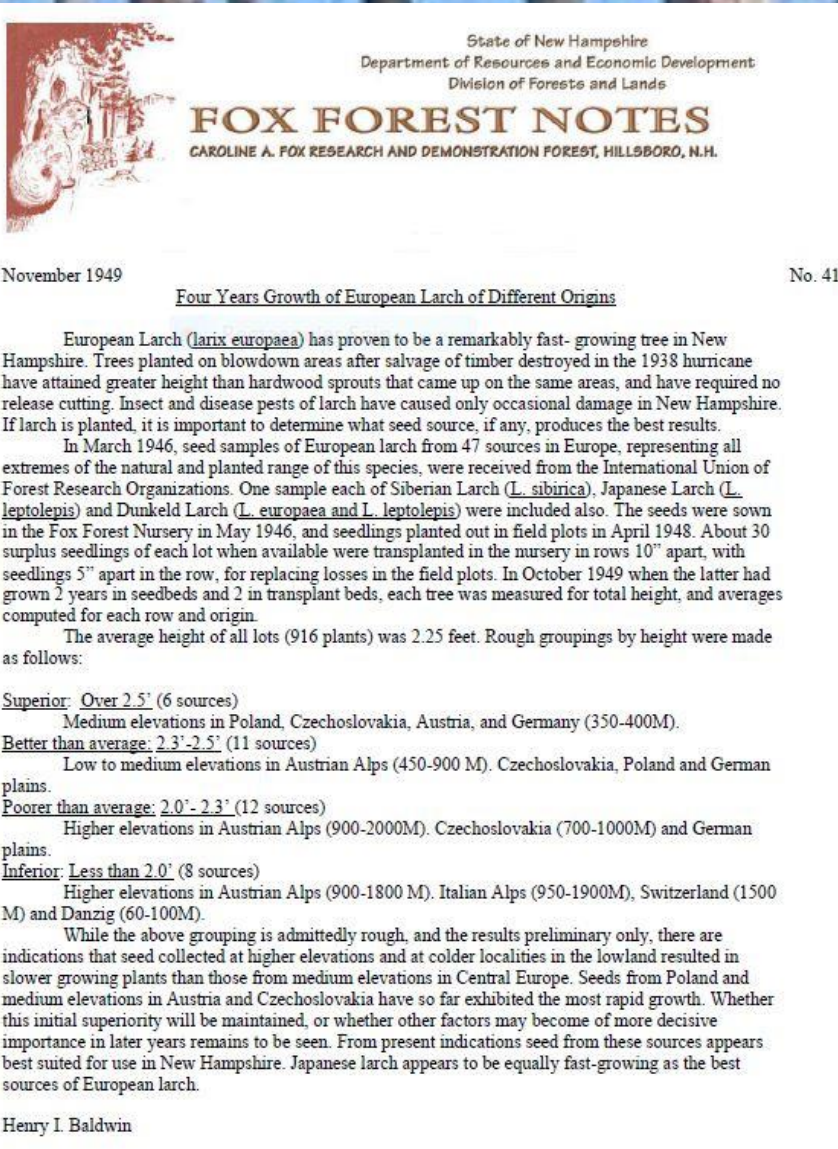


Fox larch plantations were affected by both the 1998 and 2008 ice storms.



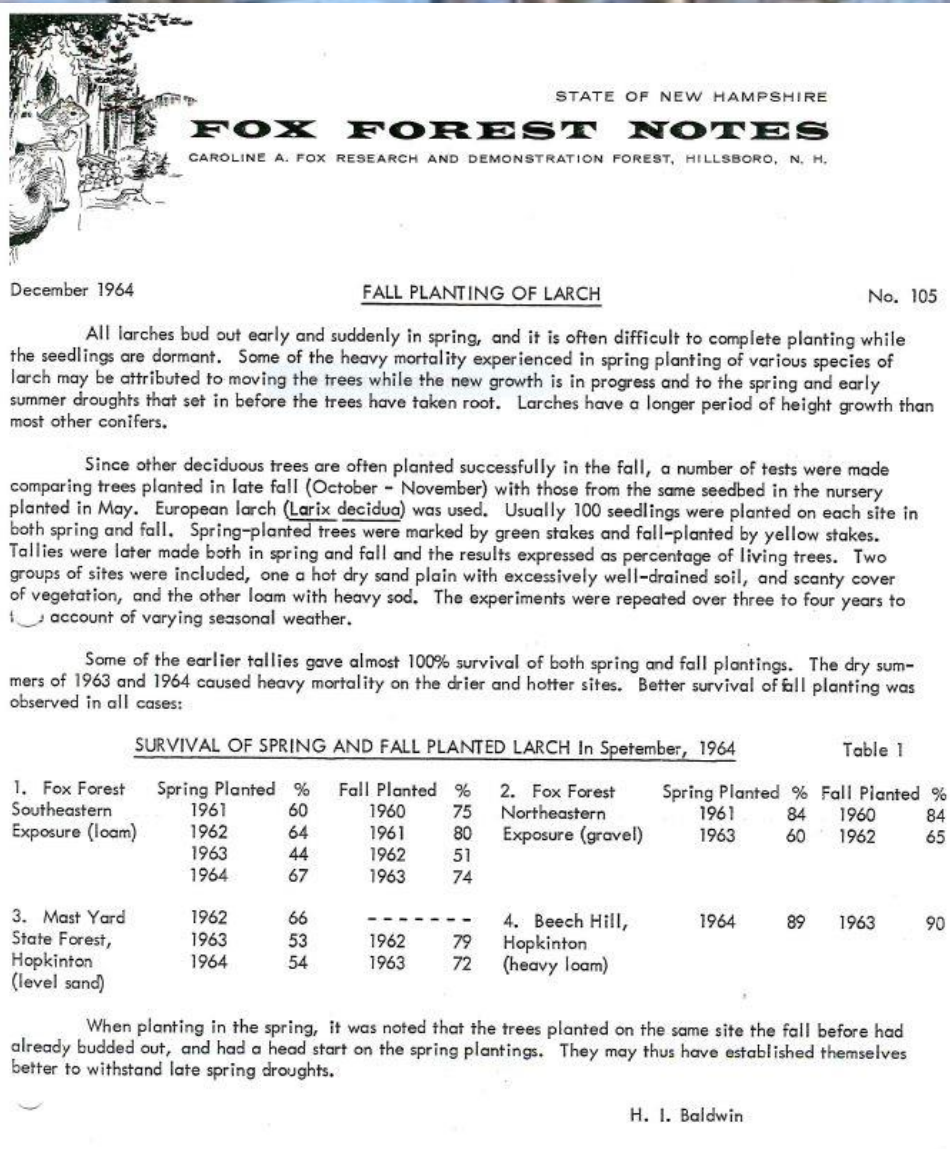
Growing Exotic Larch in New Hampshire

"Forest Notes" (a publication of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests) featured a series of articles on exotic larch in NH by Henry Baldwin (1958) and Peter Allen (1967) who followed him as the NH State Research Forester.



FOX NOTES			
#	Title	Author	Year
41	Four Years Growth of European Larch of Different Origins	Baldwin	1949
60	Course of Seasonal Height Growth in European Larch	Baldwin	1955
104	Height growth of Larches	Schier	1963
105	Fall Planting of Larch	Baldwin	1964
115	Growth of Exotic Larches on Fox Forest	Baldwin & Verrier	1979
131	Larch Growth at Fox Research and Demonstration Forest 1986 to 2011	Allen & Seaboyer	2017

FOX BULLETINS			
#	Title	Author	Year
13	Geographic Variations in European Larch	Genys	1960
15	An Inventory of Seed Sources	Baldwin	1965
**	The Fox Forest Larch Project - Fifty Years of Exotic Larch 1936-1986 (Unpublished manuscript)	Desmarais	1986



Fox plantations and publications provide reference for managers and researchers interested in growing exotic larch.